WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Electricity dues to APSEB

4252. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY :

SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH :

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that the Hyderabad Unit of IDPL is having dues amounting to lakhs of rupees towards electricity consumption charges to APSEB;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that the township of IDPL is till drawing power from APSEB even though the plant has not been in the operation for past 2 years, imposing heavy burden on the board; and

(d) if so, by when Government are going to clear the dues to APSEB ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The amount of electricity dues of APSEB/AP Transco upto February 2000 is about Rs. 34.00 crores.

(c) and (d) The township of IDPL at Hederabad is drawing power from APSEB since the employees are residing in the township. The dues to APSEB will be dealt with in accordance with the decision regarding the revival of IDPL by the Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction (BIFR), in respect of which, no time frame can be stipulated by the Government.

Poor progress of Assam Gas Cracker Project

4253. DR. (SMT.) JOYASREE GOSWAMI MAHANTA : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether RIL is committed to implement the Assam Gas Cracker Project as their sister concern or as a separate corporate identity, without the banner of RIL; and

(b) what is the thinking of the Central Government on the very poor progress of implementation of the project ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) : (a) M/s. Reliance Assam Petrochemicals Ltd.(RAPL), a joint venture of Assam Industrial Development Corporation (AIDC) and Reliance Industries Ltd. (RIL), holds LOI for setting up the Assam Gas Cracker Project. Government of Assam, RIL and Reliance Group of companies/public would have 11%, 40% and 49% equity respectively.

(b) Government has been constantly monitoring and reviewing the progress in implementation of the Assam Gas Cracker Project. M/s. RAPL had taken measures such as identification of site, conducting Environment Impact Assessment Study, part acquisition of land etc. However, due to objections raised by the Chabua Air Force Authorities, the project was required to be relocated. An alternate site has since been identified and Environment Impact Assessment Study has commenced. RAPL and Oil India Ltd. (OIL) have initialled the agreed clauses of the Gas Supply Agreement on March 14, 2000. Some technical issues relating to the Gas Supply Agreement are currently under negotiation between RAPL and OIL.

Expenditure on Payment to Domestic Units for Urea

4254. SHRI AMAR SINGH : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that imported urea's cost comes to Rs. 4300 per tonne whereas the Government of India pay local urea firms, such as the Public Sector HFC, a whopping of Rs. 16722 per tonne, and Rs. 14309 to Madras Fertilizer;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and the Total extra expenditure incurred by Government on payment to domestic fertilizer plants; and

(c) what are the specific reasons for incurring such huge expendiure ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAMESH BAIS) : (a) to (c) The cost of imported urea varies significantly even in short periods and depends also on the off-take by major buyers like India in the market. Government of India subsidises production of indigenous urea manufacturers under the Retention Price-cum-Subsidy Scheme. Retention price is fixed for each unit and is a combination of norms and actuals. The retention price for each unit varies from unit-to-unit depending upon the health and vintage of the plant, the feedstock used, the levels of capacity utilisation, energy consumption, distance from the source of